



REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In this regard, Claim 2 has been amended to delete the limitation, without prejudice, that “the golf clubs carried in the golf bag are supported by the bottom.” With this explanation and amendment, it is assumed that the rejection of the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) will be withdrawn.

The drawings have been additionally objected to as failing to comply with under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they do not include reference signs “28”, “29”, “51”, “61” and “63” referred to in the description. In this regard, Figures 1 and 3 have been amended to include reference sign “63”, Figure 4 has been amended to include reference signs “51”, “61” and “63” and Figure 5 has been amended to include reference signs “28”, “29” and “63”. Annotated copies of Figures 1 and 3-5 are enclosed herewith showing such amendments in red. An additional set of formal drawings, including a revised FIG. 1 containing the attached revisions, will be submitted to the Patent Office shortly. With this explanation and these amendments, it is assumed that the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) will be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In this regard, the Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to delete the term “thread” therefrom. With this explanation and these amendments, it is assumed that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, will be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In this regard, Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 have been amended to change “back wall” to “rear wall.” Claim 1 has been amended to change “slanted top” to “sloped upper end.” In addition, Claim 3 has been amended to change “top” to “upper end,” and Claim 12 has been cancelled. Further, Claim 6 has been amended to “the front and at least one side” to “the front wall and at least one side wall.” With this explanation and these amendments, it is assumed that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, will be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Lombardo et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,322) in view of Clark et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,522,299). Claims 6, 7 and (9-11)/7 have been similarly rejected as being unpatentable over the references as applied to Claims 1-5 and further in view of DeMichele (U.S. Patent No. 5,330,944), while Claims 8 and (9-11)/8 have been similarly rejected over the references as applied to Claims 7 and (9-11)/7 above and further in view of Gerber (U.S. Patent No. 4,799,725) and Claim 12 has been similarly rejected over the references applied to Claim 7 and further in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 4,905,827). Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 1, even if Lombardo et al. and Clark et al. are combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, neither of such references discloses a golf club travel bag of the type called for in amended Claim 1 having, among other things, a one piece outer shell having an upper end which slopes upwardly from the front wall to the rear wall and is provided with first and second openings and a club divider mounted within each of the first and second openings in the sloped upper end of the bag, each club divider having at least three steps rising toward the rear wall and having at least one aperture in each step to receive a golf club.

The first and second openings in the sloped upper end of the bag are important features of the invention because they permit a set of golf clubs to be segregated into the two openings. For example, the “woods” can be placed in the first opening and the “irons” can be placed in the second opening. Each club divider having at least three steps rising toward the rear wall and having at least one aperture in each step to receive a golf club is also an important feature of the invention because it permits the clubs to be segregated by height, with shorter clubs toward the front wall and longer clubs toward the rear wall. As stated in the application on Page 3 beginning at line 20, the club shafts are engaged near the heads which limits lateral movement of the heads and minimizes damage to adjacent clubs.

Claims 2-6 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1 and by reason of the additional limitations called for therein.

With respect to amended Claim 7, even if Lombardo et al., Clark et al., DeMichele and Kim '827 are combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, none of such references disclose a golf travel bag of the type set forth in amended Claim 7 having, among other things, a shell including a partition wall at the upper end to form first and second openings in the upper

end, a club divider mounted within each of the first and second openings, each club divider having a plurality of apertures for receiving club shafts and first and second removable covers distinct from the shell for mounting to the shell to close the respective first and second openings.

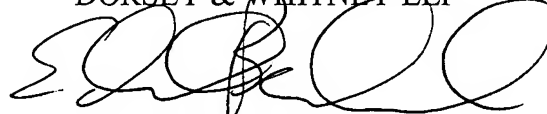
The first and second openings in the upper end and the first and second removable covers for mounting to the shell to close the respective first and second openings are important features of the invention. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the first and second openings permit a set of golf clubs to be segregated into the two openings. The first and second removable covers permit the first and second openings to be separately accessed, thus for example retaining unused clubs in the closed portion of the shell. Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Kim '827 does not disclose first and second removable covers distinct from the shell for mounting to the shell to close respective first and second openings.

Claims 8-11 depend from Claim 7 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 7 and by reason of the additional limitations called for therein. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of record are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue. Should the Examiner believe that the application is not in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would help further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



Edward N. Bachand
Reg. No. 37,085

Customer No. 32940
555 California Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94104-1513
Telephone No.: (650) 857-1717
Facsimile No.: (650) 857-1288

4848-4423-1424\1